



Swarland County 1st School
Newton on the Moor
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE65 9JP

Telephone/Fax (01670) 787346

Email: admin@swarland.northumberland.sch.uk



4th September 2015

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the start of a new term at Swarland First School and a special welcome to our new parents and children who are joining us for the first time. I hope you all had a wonderful summer break and are refreshed and eagerly awaiting the forthcoming academic year.

On behalf of all the staff thank you for the cards, presents and kind words that were generously given at the end of last term.

Celebrations

In the last week before we broke up for the Summer holiday, Swarland First School was awarded the Silver Eco-Schools Award. This was to acknowledge the fantastic work carried out by our children and staff, led by our school Eco-Council. They have worked hard this year creating an eco-code, nominating energy monitors, auditing their provision, creating an action plan and involving the school community in a fantastic eco-art project which is displayed in our hall. Well done to everyone who helped us achieve this award.

Achievements

Our school is starting the school year on the back of excellent results and achievements. Our end of year attainment results in reading, writing and mathematics at the end of Early Years, Key Stage One and Lower Key Stage 2 were the highest they have been in the last three years. A summary of our results can be found at the end of this letter.

These fantastic achievements could not have been achieved without the support we receive from parents and carers. Thank you.

Staffing

We would like to welcome Mrs Sparkes to our school team this year she will be working as a teaching assistant across the school. Congratulations to Miss Richardson who got married over the summer holidays and will now be known as Mrs Stocks.

Headteacher - Mrs Louise Fletcher





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Free School Meals

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are already entitled to a free school meal. However if you are unemployed, receive a qualifying benefit, Income Support or Income Based Jobseekers Allowance you may be entitled to register for free school meals. This is extremely beneficial to your child and the school as those children who register and are entitled to a free school meal via the above criteria, may receive a sum of money into the school which may be used to help your child in their learning. We would urge you to register if you think you may qualify. The parent or guardian will need to complete an application and return it to the school or the FSM office at County Hall. You can apply for free school meals online at <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Default.aspx?page=1098#free> or telephone 01670 623592. If you require further information, please contact the school office.

School dinners for those in Year 3 & 4 will be at a cost of £74 for this half term. Cheques should be made payable to Northumberland County Council. Thank you.

Strengths and areas for development

As a school we continuously self-evaluate our performance to ensure we can be "*the best that we can be.*" We would like to share with you what we consider to be our current strengths and future areas for development.

Strengths:

- Across almost all year groups and in a wide range of subjects, including in English and mathematics, pupils make consistently strong progress, developing secure knowledge and understanding, considering their different starting points.
- Pupils are typically able to articulate their knowledge and understanding clearly in an age-appropriate way. They can hold thoughtful conversations with each other and adults.
- Teachers are determined that pupils achieve well. They encourage pupils to try hard, recognise their efforts and ensure that pupils take pride in all aspects of their work.
- Teachers demonstrate deep knowledge and understanding of the subjects they teach. They use questioning highly effectively and demonstrate understanding of the ways pupils think about subject content. They identify pupils' common misconceptions and act to

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ensure they are corrected. Pupils are curious, interested learners who seek out and use new information.

- Governors do not shy away from challenging leaders about variations in outcomes for pupil groups.
- The broad and balanced curriculum provides a wide range of opportunities for pupils to learn. The range of subjects and courses helps pupils acquire knowledge, understanding and skills in all aspects of their education, including linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technical, human and social, physical and artistic learning. This supports pupils' good progress. The curriculum also contributes well to pupils' behaviour and welfare, including their physical, mental and personal well-being, safety and spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- Leaders and governors have an accurate and comprehensive understanding of the quality of education at the school. This helps them plan, monitor and refine actions to improve all key aspects of the school's work.
- The school's open culture actively promotes all aspects of pupils' welfare. Pupils are safe and feel safe at all times. They understand how to keep themselves and others safe in different situations and settings. They trust leaders to take rapid and appropriate action to resolve any concerns they have.
- Pupils' attitudes to all aspects of their learning are consistently positive. These positive attitudes have a good impact on the progress they make. Pupils conduct themselves well throughout the day, including at lunchtimes.

Areas for further development:

- To enhance children's opportunities to use and apply their wide range of skills to great effect in reading, writing, mathematics and communication.
- To improve progress and attainment of mathematics across the school.
- To improve the proportion of outstanding lessons across the school.
- To provide adequate time for practice to embed the pupils knowledge, understanding and skills securely.

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- To ensure Governors systematically challenge leaders to secure excellent outcomes for pupils.
- To ensure safeguarding remains highly effective, including protecting pupils from radicalisation and extremism.
- To create a culture where staff reflect and debate the way they teach.
- To establish Philosophy For Children to ensure pupils discuss and debate issues in a considered way.
- To ensure pupils, parents, staff, governors and pupils are unreservedly positive about both behaviour and safety.

Consultation

The Governing Body would like the opportunity to meet with parents to hear their views regarding the consultation on the proposed restructure to the schools in the Alnwick Partnership. The meeting will take place in the school hall at 7pm on Wednesday 9th September.

Dates for Diaries

9th September - Governor Meeting with parents regarding the consultation at 7pm.

16th September - Home School Association Annual General Meeting at school 7pm.

21st September - Year 1 & 2 trip to the Life Centre.

28th September - Individual school photographs

12th October - Parent Consultations 1pm-6pm

21st October - Whole school trip to Woodhorn Museum to see the Weeping Window Poppies

23rd October - Children break up for half term.

Warmest Regards,

Louise Fletcher

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End of 2015 academic year results for Swarland First School

Early Years

- 69% of children achieved a good level of development in 2015 (60% 2014 national average).
- Good level of development compared to 2014 and national:

	Reading	Writing	Number	Shape, space
Swarland 2015 result	85%	77%	77%	85%
Swarland 2014 result	82%	65%	76%	65%
National 2014	74%	67%	74%	79%

Year 1 Phonics

	School Results	National
2015	87%	not yet available
2014	93%	74%

Key Stage 1 (End of Year 2)

	Reading (achieved 2b+ = national expectation)	Writing (achieved 2b+ = national expectation)	Mathematics (achieved 2b+ = national expectation)
School result 2015	93%	87%	93%
School result 2014	89%	78%	89%
National result 2014	81%	70%	80%

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End of Year 4 data

Numerical figure is an average point score	Reading	Writing	Mathematics
School result 2015 (unvalidated)	25.3	23.4	23.6
School result 2014	24	22.3	23.4
No national result 2014 so indicated from expected progress from KS1	22.5	21.1	22.2

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Questionnaire Results

Last term we asked parents to complete a parent questionnaire about our school. Thank you to those who took the time to complete it. Below is a summary of those results.

1 parent = 4%. I am proud to announce that 100% of parents would recommend the school to

	(please tick)	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1	My child feels safe at this school.	96%	4%		
2	My child is making good progress at this school.	79%	21%		
3	This school meets my child's particular needs.	83%	13%	4%	
4	This school ensures my child is well looked after.	86%	14%		
5	My child is taught well at this school.	83%	17%		
6	This school helps my child to develop skills in communication, reading, writing and mathematics.	83%	17%		
7	There is a good standard of behaviour at this school.	79%	21%		
8	My child's lessons are not disrupted by bad behaviour.	63%	37%		
9	This school deals with any cases of bullying effectively. (Bullying includes persistent name-calling, cyber, racist and homophobic bullying).	86%	14%		
10	This school helps me to support my child's learning.	83%	13%	4%	
11	This school responds well to my concerns.	83%	13%	4%	
12	This school keeps me well informed.	79%	13%	8%	

another parent. We are now working on other ways we can keep parents informed.

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